

NorDoc agreement for an open market for PhD courses

The activities of NorDoc aim to initiate, facilitate and intensify collaboration among the Nordic doctoral schools/faculties/universities in all relevant fields for the benefit of Nordic doctoral candidates¹ and their supervisors in order to support and ensure the highest possible quality in doctoral education in the health sciences².

In pursuance of the NorDoc Mission Statement of 2016, the NorDoc member organisations agree to provide free access for Nordic doctoral candidates to current PhD courses offered by members of the network. This agreement outlines the provisions for access to PhD courses with the waiver of course fees.

The purpose of this agreement is to strengthen the NorDoc collaboration according to the Mission Statement as well as to create an open market for PhD courses within the NorDoc framework, promote mobility among doctoral candidates and offer a larger catchment area of course participants.

The NorDoc member organisations agree on the following principles to secure free access to PhD courses for NorDoc doctoral candidates.

Selection criteria and priority of applicants

- The NorDoc member organisations will in general give priority to doctoral candidates from other NorDoc member organisations to the extent that rules and regulations of the member organisation allow it.
- Principles of selection criteria and priority of applicants at the NorDoc member organisations are shown in the table below.

Fees and payment

- Doctoral candidates from a NorDoc member organisation can apply for PhD courses at other NorDoc member organisations. Course fees (if any) will be waived.
- In the case that a NorDoc member organisation charges a course fee to its own enrolled doctoral candidates, NorDoc doctoral candidates from other member organisations will be charged as well.
- Late-cancellation fees, no-show fees, direct equipment fees, board and lodging fees may be charged according to rules and regulations of the individual NorDoc member organisation. Transport to course venue and lodging are not covered by the course provider.

General provisions

- The effect of the agreement is overall resource neutral. The NorDoc member organisations aim to contribute to the purpose of this agreement by offering seats/places in their PhD courses corresponding to their relative size in the NorDoc network.
- A PhD course is defined as a course activity approved by the doctoral school/faculty/university in question and offered in a course catalogue (or similar).
- When a doctoral candidate participates in a PhD course at a NorDoc member organisation, that NorDoc member organisation decides when the doctoral candidate has completed a PhD course satisfactorily. Other member organisations acknowledge this decision.
- If this agreement contradicts any national or university rules and regulations of the NorDoc member organisations, such rules and regulations prevail over this agreement.

¹ In this agreement the term 'doctoral candidates' is used equivalently with the terms PhD students, PhD fellows, doctoral fellows etc. This is in line with the mission statement.

² For further information, please see appendix 1, mission statement

- The member organisations acknowledge the ECTS calculation of PhD courses offered by other member organisations.
- The member organisation will hold PhD courses in English if requested by a non-native speaker.

Administrative provisions

A doctoral candidate must state at which NorDoc member organisation she/he is enrolled, when she/he applies for participation in a PhD course. This is necessary in order to grant priority and have any course fee waived.

Promoting and marketing the agreement

The NorDoc member organisations strive to efficiently advertise and promote the NorDoc collaboration and the possibility of free PhD courses access among doctoral candidates and PhD supervisors. The NorDoc member organisations aim to establish a joint course database for NorDoc doctoral candidates.

Commencement, follow-up and inclusion of new member organisations

This agreement is effective from the NorDoc network meeting in Reykjavik 24 May 2018.

At the annual NorDoc network meetings, the member organisations will follow up on the status of the agreement. The agreement will be evaluated two years after the commencement. Member organisations will report on the approximate number of NorDoc doctoral candidates participating in PhD courses at their institutions.

Any new NorDoc members included in the network after the above-mentioned date must accept the terms of this agreement in writing to the NorDoc chair. NorDoc membership implies participation in this agreement.

Withdrawal

If a NorDoc member organisation terminates its membership of the NorDoc network, the termination also implies withdrawal from this agreement. Please refer to the mission statement regarding withdrawal from NorDoc. Any commenced course activities must however be completed.

Selection priority at each NorDoc member organisation

University/institution	Member organisation	Country	Selection priority of doctoral candidates	Websites (course catalogues)
Aarhus University	Graduate School of Health	Denmark	80 % of course seats are reserved for AU Health doctoral candidates. 20 % are reserved to the following applicants: 1. Doctoral candidates from other Danish universities 2. Research year students 3. Other applicants, including other non-Danish.	https://service.health.au.dk/modules/Course/mypage/coursecalendar
University of Copenhagen	Graduate School of Health and Medical Sciences	Denmark	Scientific courses 80 % of course seats are reserved for UCPH SUND doctoral candidates. 20% of course seats are reserved for doctoral candidates from other Danish universities. Generic courses No course seats in generic courses are reserved for doctoral candidates from other Danish universities. Doctoral candidates from Danish universities have priority to any remaining course seats after the application deadline. There might be rare exceptions from these principles; however that will be clearly stated in the course catalogue.	https://phd-courses.ku.dk/Default.aspx?site-path=sund&guid=1cf45799-1ac2-4f99-9c09-2ddc1cd5126b
University of Southern Denmark (SDU)	SDU Graduate School of Health Sciences	Denmark	The same priority is given to doctoral candidates from NorDoc, SDU, and other Danish universities. Courses are free of charge for all doctoral candidates enrolled at Danish universities and NorDoc member organisations. Other participants pay a course fee.	http://www.sdu.dk/en/for-skning/phd/phd_skoler/phd_skolensundhedsvidenskab/phd_students/phd_courses/kursusoversigt

University/institution	Member organisation	Country	Selection priority of doctoral candidates	Websites (course catalogues)
Aalborg University	Doctoral School in Medicine, Biomedical Science and Technology	Denmark	Enrolled doctoral candidates will have priority. NorDoc doctoral candidates will be able to participate free of charge if there are vacant seats.	https://phd.moodle.aau.dk/
University of the Faroe Islands	Faculty of Natural and Health Sciences	Faroe islands	Enrolled doctoral candidates at the Doctoral School have priority. Anyone can participate free of charge if there is available seats.	https://setur.fo/ut-bugvingar/adrar-ut-bugvingar/stakgreinalatur/depilin-fyri-heilsu-og-almannagransking/
University of Helsinki	Doctoral School in Health Sciences	Finland	Enrolled doctoral candidates at the Doctoral School have priority. Anyone can participate free of charge if there is available seats.	http://www.helsinki.fi/health/courses.html
University of Oulu	Health and Biosciences doctoral Programme (HBS-DP)	Finland	Enrolled doctoral candidates at the University of Oulu have priority, followed by doctoral students of the NorDoc network. Anyone can participate free of charge if there are available seats.	http://www.oulu.fi/uniogs/dp/hbsdpp http://www.oulu.fi/uniogs/dp/hbsdpp/calendar-of-events
University of Tampere	Doctoral Programmes in Health Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences	Finland	Enrolled doctoral candidates at the Doctoral School have priority. Anyone can participate free of charge if there is available seats.	http://www.uta.fi/hes/en/doctoralstudies/index.html
University of Turku	Faculty of Medicine, Postgraduate Education Unit (PGE)	Finland	Enrolled doctoral candidates at the Doctoral School have priority. Anyone can participate free of charge if there is available seats.	http://www.utu.fi/fi/yksikot/med/opiskelu/Jatkotutkinto/PGE/Sivut/kursusit.aspx
University of Iceland	Faculty of Medicine, School of Health Sciences	Iceland	Enrolled doctoral candidates at the Doctoral School have priority. Anyone can participate free of charge if there is available seats.	http://english.hi.is/school_of_health_sciences/school_of_health_sciences
University of Bergen	Faculty of Medicine	Norway	Enrolled doctoral candidates have priority. For courses expected to be full, external participants are admitted after the registration deadline. For courses not expected to be full, seats are given on continuous admission. Admission to courses in professional studies (medicine, pharmacy, dentistry etc.) is not available. External participants are allowed to follow courses for a maximum of 30 ECTS. Some courses offered by National Research Schools are reserved exclusively to doctoral candidates from such schools.	http://www.uib.no/en/course
NTNU Norwegian University of Science and Technology	Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences	Norway	Enrolled doctoral candidates at the faculty have priority, and then followed by external candidates. In most cases all applicants get admission to courses at the NTNU.	https://www.ntnu.edu/mh/pd

University/institution	Member organisation	Country	Selection priority of doctoral candidates	Websites (course catalogues)
			Some courses offered by National Research Schools are reserved exclusively to doctoral candidates from such schools.	
University of Oslo	Faculty of Medicine	Norway	Applicants who are not admitted to a PhD Programme at the University of Oslo must apply for a right to study before they can apply for PhD courses at the Faculty, for more information: www.med.uio.no/english/research/phd/courses/elective/study-right-soknad-sweb.html All doctoral candidates with a right to study - whether they are doctoral candidates at UiO or other institution - have the same priority to access UiO's PhD courses with two exceptions: The Faculty offers two Introductory courses (MF 9010 and MF9030) which are open only to doctoral candidates enrolled at UiO.	http://www.uio.no/english/studies/courses/medicine/med/?filter.level=phd
University of Gothenburg	Institute of Medicine	Sweden		http://sahlgrenska.gu.se/english/doctoral-student-portal/from-admission-to-defending-your-thesis/phd-courses/available-courses
Karolinska Institutet	n.a.	Sweden	Enrolled doctoral candidates at Karolinska have priority, then employed postdocs at Karolinska and then doctoral candidates from other universities	http://ki.se/en/staff/course-catalogue-and-vacancies-doctoral-courses
Lund University	Faculty of Medicine	Sweden	Enrolled PhD students at the Doctoral School have priority. Anyone can participate free of charge if there is available seats	http://www.med.lu.se/english/intramed/teaching_research/phd_students_supervisors_for_phd_students/courses
Uppsala University	The Research Training Committee, Disciplinary Domain of Medicine and Pharmacy	Sweden	Enrolled doctoral candidates at the Uppsala University have priority. Other doctoral candidates can participate free of charge if there is available seats.	http://www2.medfarm.uu.se/utbildning/forskarniva/for_doktorander/kurser.html

Access to free courses at the Danish NorDoc member organisations are governed by the Danish national open market agreement³.

Appendix 1: NorDoc Mission Statement (2016)

Appendix 2: NorDoc member universities overview (August 2017)

Signatures

On behalf of the NorDoc member organisations, this agreement is effective from this day.

Date: 24 May 2018

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³ <http://dkuni.dk/Politik/~media/Files/Publikationer/Phd%20kurser.aspx>

